

In the Abstract

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

~~The present invention recites a~~ An exercise apparatus for use in performing abdominal exercises. The apparatus includes a back support member having a first side for supporting a back of a user and a headrest having a first side for resting a head of a user thereagainst. A ~~means device~~ for supporting a neck and head of the user is positioned between the back support member and the headrest. When a user performs an abdominal exercise, the supporting ~~means device~~ supports the headrest thereby preventing neck and cervical strain.